

BLM Nevada News

ELY DISTRICT OFFICE NO. 2013-84

FOR RELEASE: Thursday, Sept. 5, 2013

CONTACT: Chris Hanefeld, (775) 289-1842, chanefel@blm.gov

BLM Seeks Public Input on Proposed Gold Rock Project

Ely – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has published in the *Federal Register* a Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for a proposed open-pit gold mine located approximately 50 miles west of Ely, in White Pine County, Nev. The notice opens a 30-day public scoping period that will end **October 7, 2013**.

The BLM has scheduled three public scoping meetings in Nevada, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Dates and locations are:

- Tuesday, September 24, Bristlecone Convention Center, 150 Sixth Street, Ely
- Wednesday, September 25, Eureka Opera House, 31 S. Main St., Eureka
- Thursday, September 26, Best Western Plus Reno Airport Plaza, 1981 Terminal Way, Reno

The public is being asked to identify issues relevant to a Midway Gold U.S. Inc. proposal to construct and operate the Gold Rock Project, which would be located on BLM-administered lands and consist of an open pit; a heap leach pad and associated ponds, process facility, and refinery; a mill; a carbon-in-leach plant; waste rock dumps; a tailings storage facility; water supply wells; haul roads; ancillary facilities; and a 69 kV transmission line. Electrical power would be obtained from Mt. Wheeler Power. For the Gold Rock Project, a 69-kV transmission line would be extended from the Pan Mine approximately 6 miles across the valley to tie into the west side of the Gold Rock Project electric system. Approximately 250 to 300 people would be employed during facility construction, and approximately 150 to 250 people would be employed during operations. The proposed project's total surface disturbance would be approximately 3,749 acres. The BLM has identified the following preliminary issues: cultural resources; socioeconomics; loss of habitat for wild horses and wildlife, including greater sage-grouse and mule deer; air quality; view shed areas; and loss of access to hunting area.

Interested individuals should address all written comments to the BLM Ely District Office, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, NV 89301, Attn: Dan Netcher or fax them to Netcher at (775) 289-1910. Comments may also be submitted to the following e-mail address: Gold_Rock_EIS@blm.gov. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

A project webpage has been developed on the National NEPA Registrar web page at https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do. To navigate to this project webpage (from the link above), scroll down to and select "Nevada" in the "State(s)" list,

this will populate the “Office(s)” list, select “NV-Egan FO”. Under “Fiscal Year(s)”, select “2013” and then click the “Search” button on the right of the screen. This should take you to a list of projects, find and select this project DOI-BLM-NV-L010-2013-0028-EIS to display the project webpage. Navigate through the project webpage using the links on the left. Scoping information can be found in “Home”.

The BLM will use the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) public participation requirements to assist the agency in satisfying the public involvement requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 U.S.C. 470(f) pursuant to 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). The information about historic and cultural resources of value within the area potentially affected by the proposed action will assist the BLM in identifying and evaluating impacts to such resources in the context of both NEPA and Section 106 of the NHPA. Tribal or individual concerns, including impacts and potential impacts to culturally valued areas, will be given due consideration.

Additional information is available online at <http://www.blm.gov/nv/>. Click on the Ely District map and then click on the Gold Rock Project under “In the Spotlight.” Project materials may also be viewed at the BLM Ely District Office, 702 N. Industrial Way, Ely, Nev., from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Pacific Time, Monday through Friday, except holidays.

For more information, contact Dan Netcher, BLM Ely District project manager-renewable energy, at (775) 289-1872 or dnetcher@blm.gov.

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